

MAINE FARMER

Our Home, our Country and our Brother Man.

PLASTERING AND COVERING.

The queries of "A Reader," in his communication from Readfield, and the accompanying remarks, are suggestive of many topics of great interest to the farmer of Maine. It may seem strange to some of our readers who have grown gray in tilling the soil, and now at the age of four score are preparing to exchange this abode for one in the spirit land, to hear us say, as we do most emphatically, that the Agriculture of Maine is yet in its infancy. Indeed, we have hardly commenced the A B C of the science. We admit that much, very much, has been elicited, much has been discovered, much has been invented, but nothing, comparatively nothing, to what will be hereafter brought out from the secret storehouse of Nature, as it regards the appliances of fertilizers to the soil and crops, and the improvements in feeding stock, and in the improvement of implements and machinery, to facilitate the operations of the future farmers of Maine. We may not live to see even a moiety of it, but we see it with the eye of faith, and rejoice in the prospect.

The art of successfully cultivating wheat and other grains, is not yet so fully acquired as it will be. At present it is rather an uncertain business. The time will come when it will be a much more sure and safe business than at present.

The enquiry and research now going on respecting the chemical character of soils and crops, and the preparation and application of fertilizers will ultimately be productive of highly beneficial results. Mistakes will often be made, but to a reflecting and enquiring mind these very mistakes will lead to the discovery of valuable truths.

The use of plaster and clover, as suggested by the communication referred to, may be made of invaluable service to our farmers.

Chemists who have carefully analyzed clover, have come to the conclusion that this plant contains more of the ingredients necessary to make a good crop of wheat than any other one thing that has yet been analyzed. We all know that plaster (gypsum) will increase the clover crop, and when it is not already contained in the soil the addition of it is of great use. The spring and autumn are most convenient times to apply it; although it will not be lost if applied at any other time of the year, unless it should be on places where it can be washed away by snows and heavy rains.

There is one particular application of plaster which we would urge upon our friends. It is the renovation of old pastures. It would be an excellent plan to mow down all the brakes, hardwicks and sweet ferns that have crept in and excluded grass—burn them off—pass a harrow over them, and then sow on white clover seed and plaster of Paris. The white clover is at home all over Maine, and plaster is excellent food for it. It makes excellent grazing for cattle, and forms a compact soil. Too much attention cannot be given to renovating our pasture lands.

We have adopted the practice of adding a liberal portion of white clover to other grass seeds whenever we lay down any land to grass. Red clover, white clover, herdgrass and red top, form our regular prescription for laying down lands to grass, followed with a liberal application of plaster. We have found that it is a profitable practice to use a goodly number of kinds of grass seeds and a liberal portion of them. Ten pounds of red clover, five pounds of white clover, one peck of herdgrass, and half a bushel of red top, form our best quantity of seed to an acre, and we follow this with two bushels of plaster.

This not only makes a good mixture for seed, but affords an excellent dressing for wheat if you please to turn it under for that purpose.

WINTER RYE FOR SPRING FEED.
In old time, it was customary to sow rye during this month among the Indian corn, and hoe it in. Hoeing in rye was always a part of the work to be done in August.

We do not think this is the best mode of cultivating rye, especially if you wish to lay the land to grass. It prevents laying down the land smoothly and properly as it ought to be. There is one purpose to which it may be put which will be serviceable to the farmer. It is to sow rye in your cornfields, hoe it in, and use it next spring for early feed for your sheep and young cattle. As rye starts early, your sheep can crop it for some time, and it may then be plowed under, and the land appropriated to such other crops as you may wish. The hoeing will also be serviceable to the ripening corn.

SORE THROAT IN HOGS.
A "friend to the hog" wishes us to publish some remedy for the sore throat in swine. This disorder is not very common in Maine, although we have occasionally known some swine to die of it. A pretty free use of spirits of turpentine has been found beneficial in this complaint.

A communication from John L. Brooks, in the Southern Planter, of March last, says that he formerly lost many hogs with the swollen throat, but being told that spirits of turpentine, given on a little corn, two or three times a day, was a preventive, he commenced the use of it, and has never lost a hog with that disease since.

For the Maine Farmer.

PERSIAN LILACS.

Mr. HOLMES.—We noticed in the last Farmer enquiries by an amateur florist, where the White Persian Lilac could be obtained? He may be informed that they are to be had at the nurseries of D. & S. N. Taber, Yassalboro', August 9th, 1853.

HAVE WE A CURRENCY AMONG US?

"This is a question, in comparison with which the Bourbon question sinks into insignificance. At the present time it has especial importance, inasmuch as many of our people expect soon to take a trip to the Empire city, renowned first for its mock auctions, and secondly for its 'two and sixpenny currency.'" As Yankees we are so accustomed to reckon "two and sixpence" as forty-two cents, that we should be quite surprised to learn that in the common parlance of Gotham "two and sixpence" means only thirty-one cents and a quarter. We advise those who intend to visit the Crystal Palace to make themselves tolerably familiar with the very peculiar currency of Gotham, if they would save their sixpences and not be laughed at for their Yankee verbiage.

But why all this outlandish talk about "pennies" and "sixpences"? have we not a neat, convenient and beautiful currency of our own? Must our excessive devotion to everything foreign be carried so far that we must completely ignore the existence of our own national dimes, half-dimes and quarters. In order to make way for what the Gothamites call shillings and sixpences, and we Yankees, pence and four-pences. We are a nice calculating people, and our quarter and half cent currency furnishes a capital opportunity for the cultivation of our calculating powers and that propensity for saving the fractions for which we are already so distinguished.

This is a practice in which our traders are especially proficient, and which is no little source of annoyance to those who in these days of the scarcity of change, are compelled to change their "shin-plasters" into silver. If you change a "quarter," you are sure to get a "ninety-cent" and some three cent pieces back as the odd change. The strong probability is that out of a dollar four cents will be lost in the fractions, and as many more in making change with the trader to whom you must always give the "half cent." This is a small and contemptible practice encouraged on the part of storekeepers, a vexatious and petty annoyance suffered on the part of the community. We say nothing of the many doubtful looking pieces which you are unable to pass off for the full value for which you received them. We hazard nothing in saying that the circulation of this foreign currency in our midst involves an actual loss to the community of not less than eight per cent, or a tax upon our circulating medium, which would be considered outrageous were it directly levied.

The scarcity of small change is more immediately connected with the existence of these foreign coins than perhaps we are apt to imagine. So long as we depend upon them for our change, so long will our own currency be neglected and scarce. Besides, since from the fact that some of them possess a larger per cent. of the precious metal than our own coin, they are the more readily seized upon and converted into plate and other mechanical uses. For the same reason there is a tendency toward their exportation, and we are left with no substitute to take their place.

It is a positive disgrace to us that while we have so beautiful a currency, and so convenient for reckoning, it should be so little used. The only remedy, so far as we can see, is the removing of the foreign pieces and supplying their places by our own coin. Let the government obtain possession of these foreign pieces, and recoin them into quarters, dimes and half dimes, and let a law be passed that after a given date, no piece of silver shall pass for twelve and a half or six and a quarter cents, and the work is done. A fruitful source of annoyance will be removed, as well as a temptation to a very petty but generally practised species of fraud, and we shall at least have a currency which we can call our own.

We clip the above from the Cambridgeport Chronicle, and we re-echo the sentiment, that "it is a positive disgrace to us that while we have so beautiful a currency, and so convenient for reckoning, it should be so little used." Why should we talk about pence and shillings? We might with as much propriety adopt the other part of the old English currency, and talk about pounds, guineas and sovereigns. Away with the whole of it, and let us use our own system, than which the whole world does not furnish one more simple and convenient. We hope every press in the Union, and every man, woman and child in the States, will take hold of this matter, and shake the old ninny-penny system out of existence.

Ed.

SEEDING LANDS TO GRASS IN AUGUST.

Those who were not able to lay down their land to grass in the spring, or who did not obtain what our farmers call a "good catch" of seed, on those fields where they did sow grass seed in the spring, are reminded that it can be done successfully during this month.

We think the Michigan plow will be found a useful implement for this purpose. Although it may probably require more team for ploughing than the common plow, there will be less harrowing required.

It has been found, by those who have been most conversant with sowing grass seed in this latitude during the month of August, that it is better to postpone sowing clover until spring, and then to sow it on some of the last mows that come. It is apt to be winter killed if sowed at this time, but herds grass and red top, and such fine grasses, do very well sowed at this time of year, and generally produce good crops the succeeding summer.

For the Maine Farmer.

HOW SHALL WE KILL THE BED BUGS?

Mr. EDITOR.—If the recipe published in your paper of Aug. 4, for protection against mosquitoes at night, is an effective one, I do not know of but one better service to a weary and sleep needing humanity, you could have accomplished in one week of Editorial labor. If you will tell your readers what will protect them, from a long and fatiguing day's journey, from a night long tormented by bed bugs, which swarm in too often under the roof of hospitality, where you are obliged to evade the enquiries of your kind hosts, concerning your night's comfort, or tell a downright falsehood, you would rejoice

many a sufferer, who will rise up in the morning and call you blessed. A SUBSCRIBER.
Gulf's Corner, Aug. 5, 1853.

Note. Well, sir, we think we can give you a remedy against the disturbers of your sleep. Mr. Aaron Hoag, of South Gardiner, tells us that he has found the following a sure cure. He takes a feather, dips it in lamp oil, and thoroughly saturates the bedding places of the bugs. This operation, he says, will drive the bed bugs from any place, no matter how thick they may be. He has tried it, and never knew it to fail.

For the Maine Farmer.

QUERIES RESPECTING PLASTER AND COVER.

Dr. HOLMES.—As a mill for grinding Gypsum or Plaster of Paris, is about going into operation in this place, you would confer a great favor on the farmers of this vicinity, and perhaps elsewhere, by giving them a few details of its use as a manure. Although you may have done the same a great many times, still they prefer, you are aware, reading the last paper to looking over the old files, which but few of them, I am afraid, have.

I have seen stated, that the farmers of Western Pennsylvania, and of the adjoining States, enrich the soil greatly by the use of gypsum—growing a heavy crop of clover and then plowing it in. Can the same be done here? and if so, how and when should it be done? and on what kind of soil can it be used to advantage? It used to seem very strange to me, how the hale pioneers of the forests could clear their lands themselves, raise a large and respectable family of children, and be able to leave a small legacy to each one of them, while the son can hardly get a living from the same farm, well cleared and in a state of good cultivation. It can frequently be observed in the second or third generation. And whenever the remark is made, it is generally answered in some such tone as: "Oh! the sons must have better parlors, more luxuries, and love labor less." And "the daughters, more pianos and fewer spinning wheels; more drawing and less churning." &c. Now this is not wholly untrue; it is true only in part. I believe it owing not so much to want of inclination to work, as to industry, properly directed.

For the same spirit that prompts them to excel in appearance or fashion, would also prompt them to outdo their fathers in tilling the soil. And a man will be inclined to labor, generally speaking, in proportion as he enjoys the reward of his labor. Accordingly we find them dispirited, having laid their plans more extensive, and gathering fewer products from the soil.

Our soil has not the deep, rich mold of the great Mississippi valley, but like that of most countries, its nutritive quality need not be constant replenishing—and the neglect to do this in a proper manner, has, beyond question, more than all other things combined, been the chief cause of the necessity of so great an importation of corn and four into this State. Maine must and will be an agricultural State; but, before it can become such, the inhabitants must possess an amount of agricultural knowledge not surpassed by that of the people of any other State or country—an amount that will enable them to contend with all the difficulties arising both from soil and climate—difficulties, too, which must be met with in all countries of the Temperate Zone, with perhaps the single exception of the great valley of the west. And when they have acquired means of acquiring such information from agricultural associations, shows, fairs, and the perusal of a sheet as valuable as the one which you yourself have had the honor to conduct with so much ability and success, if they fail to do it, they will show themselves grossly neglectful of what is of the highest importance to them.

But, even now, when we consider that Maine boasts nearly one-third of the shipping of this Union—then her extensive lumbering interests and coast fisheries, the surprise should be, that we buy so much "breadstuffs," but that we buy no more than we do. Let the farmers of Maine turn their attention more actively to improving their soil by a rotation of crops, and the application of a proper amount of dressing, and it would not be long before they would be gratified with the delightful spectacle of seeing our four dealers turn millers, and dairymen become coopers. Let them not be content with the simple belief that it might be the case, but let that belief be so active as to compel them at once to set about and effect it. It may be done, and it should be done.

A READER.

Readfield, Aug. 4, 1853.

For the Maine Farmer.

HARVESTING BEANS.

Mr. EDITOR.—The bean harvest being now near at hand, I will, with your leave, make a few remarks, upon what I suppose to be the proper method of curing and harvesting them. People generally let their beans stand too long before pulling, whereby the stalk very much perishes, and gets too dark ripe. And then I have noticed, that many farmers on pulling the beans, stick some stalks and make them into small stacks, and so leave them a long time in the field. In this way the outside very much bleaches, and burns, and becomes weather-beaten, to the great injury of the beans and straw. The inside always gets such injury from mould, and the ripe ones much injured, and do not cook freely, and have not their natural flavor and quality, and are not so salubrious in the market. I propose, as soon as the beans are hardened in the milk, and before being ripe, in fine weather, to pull them and let them lay on the ground two or three days, as the weather may be, and then house and spread them on the floors in the barn, or other secure places, turning them often to hasten their maturity. Then the beans would be all fair and bright, and the straw, though pale, would be as good as any, and the straw would be better fodder for sheep, than English hay. These remarks will apply equally well to the harvesting of peas, and then peas would look well at all times of the year.

Portland, Aug. 5th, 1853.

The habit of being always employed in a great avocation through life, as well as casual to the culture of almost every virtue.

CULTURE AND VALUE OF THE PARSNIP.

As one who has lived twenty years upon a farm, searching all the while for reliable information, both from his own experience and from that of others, ought to be in possession of some "fixed facts" and settled opinions; and as duty, propriety, and fraternal regard require that we should allow others the opportunity of benefiting by our experience, I have moved to give you a few items of information, which I think very satisfactorily settled by evidence within my own observation.

Disliking long prefaces, and trusting that all your correspondents, will dispense with them, I commence the brief summary of my experience and observations of twenty years, by a statement in regard to the value of parsnips.

PARSNIPS FOR HOGS. One of the things which I consider well settled, and a reliable and useful item of knowledge, is this: that parsnips, either raw or cooked, but preferably cooked, with the addition of apples, potatoes, &c., occasionally, were it only to prevent the appetite from being cloyed by "eternal sameness," constitute the best kind of food for fattening a hog. They are also the best kind of roots for milch cows. Both hogs and cows eat them with avidity, and to the milk and butter they communicate a good, a delicious flavor. I have seen it stated some years ago, that beef made from parsnips brings the highest price in the London market. I think, though I may be deceived by imagination, that pork made from feed chiefly composed of parsnips, is sweeter than when made from any other feed.

This is not the only recommendation which may be justly bestowed on the parsnip. Among its other good qualities is this: that it requires no care or housing in the fall, as all other roots do. In all the middle, northern and western States, potatoes, carrots, and turnips, must be harvested and housed, or buried; and even when all this is done, and with good care and judgment, a portion will frequently be ruined and lost by frosts, over heating or decay from other causes. Parsnips, on the other hand, requiring no care in the fall, as they may be left without injury in the ground all winter. They may also be planted early in the spring, as the earliest stage of their growth, so that this root crop interferes the least of any with employment which crowd upon the farmer in the spring and fall. It continues to grow through the whole season, until the ground freezes in winter; it requires no expenditure to gather or store it; it may be taken up on several occasions during the winter, and the roots that stay in the ground all winter, are not injured, and probably improve, by the frost. Parsnips seem to be eaten with more relish than either turnips or potatoes, and yield in the raw state at least, a greater amount of nutriment.

Another advantage in cultivating parsnips is, that on a suitable soil—and on loam, rich or well manured, and deep plowed—a large growth may be secured. At the rate of 1,200 bushels have been gathered from one acre of ground. Parsnips may be planted either in spring, or in the latter part of summer, say in August or September. The ground should be well manured, mellow, and deeply plowed, and the seed sown in drills, so as to have plants to thin out, while preserving them at about eight inches apart. This will probably require about the space of two pounds seed to the acre. The drills should be two feet apart and the space between well cultivated and kept clear of weeds. If sown in spring, the earlier the better. A large growth may be secured, however, by sowing the seed in September. There will be some considerable growth before the ground freezes up, and the growth will commence again as soon as the frost leaves the ground in the spring, which will continue throughout the whole season, of about twelve months; whereas, when sown in the spring they will grow only eight or nine months.

All the advantages of this root crop have not yet been named. Among them are these—that they seem un injured by either a wet or dry season, and that no insects or bug attacks them at any stage of their growth.

[Working Farmer.]

DOMESTIC HABITS OF OUR ANCESTORS. Erasmus, who visited England in the early part of the sixteenth century, gives a curious description of an English interior of the better class. The furniture was rough; the walls unplastered, but sometimes wainscotted or hung with tapestry; and the floors covered with rushes, which were not changed for months. The dogs and cats had free access to the eating-rooms, and fragments of meat and bones were thrown to them, which they devoured among the rushes, leaving what they could not eat to rot there, with the draining of beer-vessels and all manner of unmentionable abominations. There was nothing like refinement or elegance in the luxury of the higher ranks; the indulgence which their wealth permitted consisted in rough and wasteful profusion. Salt beef and strong ale constituted the principal part of Queen Elizabeth's breakfast, and similar refreshments were served to her in bed for supper. At a series of entertainments given in York by the nobility in 1690, where each exhausted his invention to outdo the others, it was universally admitted that Lord Goring won the palm for the magnificence of his feast. The description of this supper will give us a good idea of what was then thought magnificent; it consisted of four huge brass pipes piping hot, bitted and harrowed with ropes of sausages to a huge pudding in a bag, which served for a chariot.

[The Silent Revolution.]

To IRON VELVET. Having ripped the velvet apart, damp each piece separately, and holding it tightly in both hands, stretch it before the fire, the wrong side of the velvet being toward the fire. This will remove the cross, and give the surface of the material a fresh and new appearance. Velvet cannot be ironed on a table, for when spread out on a hard substance, the iron will not go smoothly over the pile.

THE OLD FARMER'S ELEGY.

By J. D. CANNING.

On a green grassy knoll, by the banks of the brook, That so long and so often has watered his flock, The old farmer rests in his long and last sleep. White the waters a low, hissing lullaby keep.

He has ploughed his last furrow, he has reaped his last grain, No more shall awake him to labor again.

Yon tree that with fragrance is filling the air, So rich with its blossoms, so thrifty and fair, By his own hand was planted, and well did he say, It would live when its planter had vanished away.

He has ploughed his last furrow, &c.

'Twas a gloom-giving day when the old farmer died, The stout-hearted mourner—th' affectionate cried; And the prayers of his bosom, his rest did ascend, For they all lost a brother, a man, and a friend.

He has ploughed his last furrow, &c.

For upright and honest the old farmer was, (He he never forgot the respect of his race; Though famished he lived, he has gone where his worth Will outshine like pure gold all the stores of this earth.

He has ploughed his last furrow, he has reaped his last grain, No more shall awake him to labor again.

HARVESTING GRAIN.

It would seem to be almost superfluous at this late day, to urge upon our farmers the importance of cutting grain before it is fully ripe; yet notwithstanding the numerous articles which have been written and published upon this subject, and the very decided convictions expressed by the most judicious millers and grain dealers in favor of early harvesting—especially where the grain is intended for bread making or flouring—there are many who still adhere to the old practice, and will by no means allow their grain to be harvested until it is fully ripe. Prejudice is a tyrannical master, and no class of the community appear to be more fully under its control than our agricultural class. In New York, and, indeed, in all the great wheat growing States, the practice of cutting this grain before it is dead ripe prevails universally. The exact time when it should be harvested, is now, with the grain producing part of the community, no longer a matter of doubt or speculation; all being fully convinced that the right period is indicated by the change which the grain experiences when passing from its milk state to that of complete hardness, and when the kernels, without being "sticky," are yet not sufficiently hard to resist the pressure of the thumb and finger. The farina of the grain being perfectly formed, is the hardening of the mass; and this, it is abundantly established, may be as well perfected after the straw has been cut, as before.

Besides, grain that is allowed to stand till it is fully or dead ripe, makes darker flour, and is not so heavy; it scatters in harvesting, and does not command in our markets so ready a sale, or so high a price. The straw of grain, when it is cut before the period of perfect maturity, is also much more durable; it possesses a degree of succulence and saccharine sweetness which renders it a good food for stock; a use to which the straw that has stood in the fields till it has become dead or perfectly matured can never be applied.

I have cut oats when the straw was just turning from its green to its golden hue, and have found the grain full and plump, and far brighter in color, than that which stood in the field till ripe. The straw of oats when harvested early, and properly cured, is nearly as valuable for cattle feeding as the best clover hay; and when chaffed and mixed with chopped roots or meal, it makes a feed eagerly partaken of by stock of every description.

[Germantown Telegraph.]

THE KITCHEN.

Talk of the parlor with its touch-me-not elegance—we care not for it. Let its covered magnificence riot in darkness, its red velvet lie in shrouds—its pictures gaze dimly through crapes—its splendid piano stand dumb in its linen cover—its worsted roses and pinks, and gilliflowers remain unplucked in dark corners—its carpet bloom unseen. Let the shutters and double curtains exclude every ray of light; it is welcome to its darkness and its solitude, while we can have the pleasant, airy, yellow-floored, uncarpeted kitchen.

This is the place for real enjoyment—the kitchen, with its bright shelves and clean white tables, white with time. The kitchen, with its comfortable old easy chair, and broad shining hearth, and crackling blazing fire.

We do not mean the kitchen in the great house, where lazy servants have entire control, and the lady of the house never sets her foot within its precincts; but the homely, comfortable kitchen of the well-to-do working man, where the wife and the tea-kettle sing together, and little children prattle round the mother while her own hands set the table for tea.

There may be snow in the gloaming, or sun-rays lodged in the tops of the trees—or there may be city walls about, or blue water and undulating hills. It matters not—in such a place every thing smacks of true comfort.

Make the kitchen attractive and pleasant by all means. How absurd to keep one room in constant state, as it were, for the pleasure of a chance caller, or a few party-going friends! We wish no further evidence of a bad house-keeper than to see her parlor in fall dress, her kitchen, down at the heel, and her chambers in confusion. If your many duties allow no time to attend as thoroughly as you would wish to its adornment and refinement, throw open the doors of your best room, and let your family enjoy it. Pray who should, if not they!

[N. E. Cultivator.]

As increase of farm products lessens the market price, and the consumer is more benefited than the producer. Therefore the encouragement of agriculture is the interest of the whole people. It is the first duty of the states to encourage agricultural improvement.

DOMESTIC RECEIPTS.

SELECTED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

TO BOIL SALTED COD. Wash and brush a dried fish, and put it in a pot of cold water, in the morning; let it stand where it will keep warm until eleven o'clock, when you must change the water, putting in cold water as at first. Twenty minutes before you dine, put it on and boil it. Or you may bind three fish together, and boil them, taking the middle one for the table, and using the others for mince-fish.

(Home Cookery.)

TOMATO SOUP. Mash, scrape, and cut small the red parts of three large carrots, three heads of celery, four large onions, and two large turnips. Put them into a saucepan with one tablespoonful of new lean ham; let them stew gently for an hour, then add three quarts of brown soup and some whole black pepper, with eight ripe tomatoes; let it boil one and a half hours, and rub it through a sieve. Serve it with fried bread, cut in cubes.

(Home Cookery.)

TO PRESERVE RIPE TOMATOES. To each quart skinned and pressed down tight add a quart of brown sugar, and boil them together for an hour and a half; then to each quart of tomatoes add one lemon in slices, with some ginger tied in bags, or you may use the extract, and boil it another hour and a half. Then take it from the fire, and cool it before putting it into the jar. Tie it up tight, and keep it in a cool place.

(Home Cookery.)

TRAVELLER'S BLACKBERRY PIE. Pick your berries carefully, but do not wash them. Shake flour thickly over them. Make a paste and put on your plates, and to each pie put four spoonfuls of white sugar, or five of brown. Put the berries into the crust, pinch the edges together after wetting it, and make a slit in the top crust to let off the steam. Bake forty-five minutes.

(Home Cookery.)

EGG SAUCE. Boil the eggs till they are quite hard. Peel and chop them fine, season with a little pepper and salt, and stir them into melted butter.

SKIN DISEASES. For some eruptions on the face, borax is an excellent remedy. The way to use it is to dissolve an ounce of borax in a quart of water, and apply this with a fine sponge every evening before going to bed. This will smooth the skin when the eruptions do not proceed from an insect working under the outside. Many persons' faces are disfigured by red eruptions caused by a small creature working under the skin. A very excellent remedy is to take the flour of sulphur and rub it on the face dry, after washing it in the morning. Rub it with the fingers, and then wipe it off with a towel. There are many who are not a little ashamed of their faces, who can be completely cured if they follow these directions.

A GOOD WASH FOR THE HAIR. Beat the whites of six eggs into a froth, and with that whiten the head close to the roots of the hair. Leave it to dry on; then wash the head and hair thoroughly with a mixture of rum and rose water in equal quantities.

A NEW SKIDLITZ POWDER. A new Skidlitz powder, in one paper, is now used, and found to be as useful as any. It is composed of one part of bicarbonate of soda, and two parts of bitartrate of soda. Half a teaspoonful is dissolved in spring water.

BOYS IN HORSES—BREEDING BOWS.

In some respects I differ from any opinion I have heard expressed as to the way the eggs of the Bee get into the stomach of the Horse. In my opinion it would be a very slow process for a horse to bite or lick from the hair of his legs the eggs so as to get them in any considerable number into his stomach. I have found it difficult to scrape them off with a knife; and further, the throat bees, as some term them, are the most annoying to horses; they deposit their eggs about the throat where it is impossible for a horse to get them off. Some are not much troubled with them, others are very sensitive, will run from place to place, strike with their feet, and snap with their teeth to get rid of them.

I had a horse that would run to me for assistance when I was near and the bees were around her. I have watched their movements, have held her hand under the horse's throat, when the bee came against it I shut it quick and caught them, when I missed they would dart away and light in the grass. I have no doubt the horse swallows the bee and eggs with his grass, and the stomach being a suitable place for the nits, there they grow. They are commonly found in large numbers, more than ever would be collected by the lips and teeth from the hair.

I have found them in large numbers sticking to the tripe of cattle, which no doubt were swallowed in the same way. How to kill them in the stomach is more than I can tell, but never for a moment believed that the spirits of turpentine would kill them unless horses and all were killed.

The best way with a sow that destroys her pigs is to take them from her till you have them all; then have two or three persons take hold gently but firmly, lay her flat, tie her legs, and hold her fast; put a string round her nose, if you please, to stop her noise, then bring the pigs, put them to her, let them suck. She will very likely soon begin a pleasant noise and take them kindly; if the first time does not answer try it the second. I have tried this method several times and never knew it fail of complete success.

M. F.

East Salisbury, July 17th.

HOW TO PROPAGATE THE RED CEDAR AND SPRUCE.

The berries of the Red Cedar when gathered, must be buried in sand or sandy earth for a year, then sow in light earth. If sown the same season they lie a whole year in the ground without vegetating. The Spruce seed grows the first season. Dry the cones until the seed comes out; sow early in the spring in a dry border of light soil, or in boxes, shade in the middle of the day, when the plants are coming through the ground, and until they begin to make a second growth, when they will be hard enough neither to burn or damp off easily. So directs the Horticulturist.

How to GET UP EARLY. Place a basin of cold water by the side of your bed; when you first wake in the morning, dip your hands in the basin and wet your brow, and sleep will not again seal you in its treacherous embrace.

[Germantown Telegraph.]

CATTLE CHAWING BONES.

Mr. EDITOR.—I wish to enquire if you, or any of your numerous subscribers, can tell me why it is that some of our cattle have a liking to chew old bones that they find in the fields; that they will stand for hours and chew them—they will even leave their milk many times for this purpose. Please answer through the Cultivator.

May Flower, April, 1853.

We can give no other reason than the appetite they acquire for some peculiar flavor possessed by the bones, or by the small remaining portions of muscle and gelatine which remains upon them. Animals sometimes show nearly as strong an appetite for certain substances, as some men do for tobacco. It has been added that the practice of chawing bones, arises from a natural instinct for phosphate of lime in such animals as do not get a sufficiency of this ingredient in their food, especially in those which are confined to old pastures which have exhausted the soil of its phosphate. This strikes us as exceedingly improbable, for to say nothing about the extraordinary analytical discrimination which this would evince, throwing in the back-ground the most delicate tests of the long-headed professors, it so happens that the animal's teeth usually make no impression whatever upon the hard bone, and only get small portions of the more soluble gelatine, &c. To test this matter, observe whether cows will continue their liking for bones, after some portions of bone-dust or dissolved bones have been mixed regularly with their food. We have known some animals, and colts more especially, to have an extraordinary propensity to chew lathery, yet we never could discover that such animals possessed any idiosyncrasy, but merely a depraved appetite. Some horses have a strange propensity to gnaw wood whenever they can lay their teeth upon it, without any particular object or reason. [Country Gentleman.]

CARVING OF POULTRY.

In M. Sayer's Modern Housewife, a clever and handy work on cookery, will at length be found a solution of that formidable problem—how to carve a fowl with elegance and ease. Sayer explains the marvel in a way which no one could previously have the slightest idea of; and which, in fact, is nothing else than a piece of legderman. Well, the way, he says, to carve a fowl neatly is to have nothing to carve—for it really comes to that. Yes, a fowl lies before you on the table, to all appearance requiring to be anatomized by the usual desperate process, at least in all but festive hands, of wrenching the joints and bones asunder; but, lo! the thing is done by a mere touch of the knife. Legs, wings, breast-bones, instead of flying about in all directions, drop becomingly into the dish. If this be not a discovery we do not know what is. But how is it all managed? Here comes the secret; the fowl has had all of its joints cut by the cook before dressing, and that without disturbing the outer skin. To effect this properly, an instrument requires to be employed called a tendon separator, of which Sayer gives a drawing. Of course, every one who reads this will get one of these instruments, which we should think will not be more costly than ordinary pair of scissors. The method of using the instrument and of carving for tables, is explained in the usual manner.

We are told, that when roasted, the appearance of poultry is greatly improved by this simple operation—looking more plump on account of the sinews having lost



AUGUSTA:
THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 18, 1883.

NEW ROTARY STEAM ENGINE.

Ever since it has been known that steam could be used to drive machinery, there has been a constant endeavor among machinists, to devise some plan, by which it could be used in an economical and advantageous manner, in a rotary or revolving engine, so as to do away with the crank motion necessary in the common way.

Although it is very easy in theory to apply steam in this way, when you come to put it in practice, you find some very serious difficulties to encounter. The friction which the arrangement of slides &c. must necessarily undergo, or the almost impossibility of making the contact of revolving surfaces, sufficiently snug to confine steam, and yet slide upon each other easily, has given immense trouble to all who have endeavored to succeed with the rotary engine. Between two and three hundred plans for rotary steam engines, have been devised and promulgated, but none of them has as yet superceded the common up and down pump or piston rod system.

The last number of Appleton's Magazine, has drawings and explanations of a new rotary steam engine, the invention of Col. E. Barrows, of New York, which really looks plausible on paper, and according to statements of the inventor, is really an approximation to, if not the consummation of the long sought success.

We could not give any definite idea of its peculiar arrangement without engravings. The Col. has put one or two of them into actual operation, and they work well.

We shall probably be able to give further information, in regard to the working power, and economy of it at some future day.

CHEAP VENTILATORS.

Many ingenious devices have been invented for ventilating rooms.

One of the cheapest kind is to perforate one or more of the upper squares of the window, with fine holes by a glazier's diamond. Another mode is to take out the glass, and insert a square of zinc, perforated full of small holes. These afford exit for the rarified air, or for gases or unpleasant exhalations that may arise to that height.

Since air tight stoves in air tight rooms are getting fashionable, it becomes necessary to make artificial breathing holes in order to keep the air pure. The old fashioned back backed fire place, with a throat wide enough for a tunnel to a railroad, have disappeared, and with them has gone much of the ruddy health, and healthy elastic frames of the people.

Slow poison stoves, have taken the place of the good old kitchen fire, and blazing back logs, and hence we hear of the necessity of some mode to ventilate, so as to occasionally have a mouthful of pure air.

SUICIDE IN SALMON FALLS, N. H.

Mr. F. F. Downs writes us from Salmon Falls, N. H., that a Miss Abby Fitzgerald, aged 21, and formerly from Fairfield, in this State, committed suicide on Saturday last, by taking half an ounce of oil of cedar. Her reasons for the rash act are unknown to any one, except a Mrs. Savin, with whom she roomed, and who refuses to give any information on the subject. Mr. D. says: "There is a mystery about this affair which has caused quite an excitement here. It seems that Miss Fitzgerald came here about three months since, in company with a younger sister, to work in the mill, and boarded on Front St., where they became acquainted with Mrs. Savin, whose husband was in California, and she working in the mill. About a fortnight ago the lady of the house where Mrs. S. and the Fitzgerald girls boarded, saw fit to turn away Mrs. S. on account of her bad conduct. Mrs. S. prevailed upon Abby Fitzgerald to leave her boarding place and her sister, and go with her to Mrs. Brown's."

"During the past week, in company with Mrs. Savin, Miss F. called on Dr. Pike and Dr. Ross, for some oil of cedar, but they refused to let them have any. They then went to South Berwick and procured an ounce at the apothecary shop of Dr. Trafton. On Saturday evening, about ten, Miss F. took, as is supposed, about half an ounce of the oil."

"A gentleman, a stranger, called on Abby Fitzgerald, at about half past nine, and stood in the door and conversed with her some time, but no one knew him, not even her sister. In about fifteen minutes after the stranger left her, she was taken with convulsions, and before medical aid could be procured she died."

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SHOWS. We are able, this week, to make some additions to the list given our last. South Kennebec—Gardiner, October 19 and 20; Cumberland—Portland, October 19 and 20; West Lincoln—Lewiston, October 19 and 20.

We have also received a list of the officers of the Cumberland Agricultural Society, which are as follows: President—Samuel F. Perley, Naples. Vice Presidents—Edward G. Buxton, Yarmouth; James Mann, Gorham; Charles Hannaford, Cape Elizabeth; John Sawyer, Raymond. Recording Secretary—Sewall N. Gray, New Gloucester. Corresponding Secretary—David Hayes, Westbrook. Treasurer—George W. Woodman, Portland. Collector—Daniel D. Ruggles, Naples.

THE CROPS IN SOMERSET COUNTY. A subscriber writing from Cornwall, gives us the following information in regard to the crops in Somerset. "There has been," he says, "in this town, all of a quarter more hay cut than last year, but in some of the adjoining towns there has not been as much cut as last year. Of wheat there is not a large bulk of straw, but the grain is filling out extraordinarily well. Corn looks 'first rate,' and so do potatoes, though the latter will fall short of an average crop, especially in some localities, on account of the late drought. Apples are, this year, a failure."

MORE TALL CORN. Mr. John F. Thomas, of Elliptical, writes us, that he has corn that "measured eight feet five and a half inches, from the surface of the ground, on the top of the hill. Many other stalks exceed eight feet in height. This corn is of a large twelve rowed variety, but such as usually matures, *early up East* here in this high latitude, among the mountains, in the frozen regions of Moose Head Lake."

GRAND SQUAD, S. of T. At the last quarterly session of the Grand Division of Sons of Temperance, held at Bangor, Russell Kittling, of Milo, was elected Grand Scribe.

COMMENCEMENT AT WATERVILLE.

On Wednesday of last week the usual Commencement exercises took place. From the Traveller we take an account of the proceedings. The correspondent says, the commencement exercises were held at the First Baptist church, as usual. The graduating class consisted of a very young man, who performed their parts in a very creditable manner. Ten were from Maine, two from New Hampshire, one from Massachusetts, and one from Pennsylvania. The writer adds:

"The usual degree of Bachelor of Arts was conferred upon the members of the graduating class, and the Master's degree upon three or four graduates of the college; among whom were Moses Burbank, Esq., of Bolton, Mass., and Rev. J. B. Wheelwright, of Wilton, Me., and as an honorary degree, upon Dr. Hiram H. Hild of Augusta, Me. The degree of Doctor of Divinity was given to Rev. D. T. Smith, Professor of Biblical Literature in the Theological Seminary, Bangor, and Rev. S. F. Smith, of Newton, Mass., and the degree of Doctor of Laws, to Martin T. Anderson, President of Rochester University, N. Y., a graduate of the college."

Rev. Mr. Brooks, Professor of Chemistry and Natural History in the college, was by order of the Trustees, transferred to the department of Mathematics, and his place supplied by the election of Mr. Charles E. Hamlen. The commencement dinner was served up at the Elmwood House. After the dinner, spirited and interesting speeches were delivered by the graduates of the State, Rev. Dr. Magoun of New York, addressed the Society of Alumni, in a truly practical, eloquent and tasteful oration. In the evening, Rev. Mr. Oncken, of Germany, gave a history of his mission, which deeply interested and gratified a great number of hearers. At the same time, Bowdoin's Cornet Band, which had furnished the musical entertainment for the literary festivities, discoursed eloquently, in their own sweet style, on the open green in the centre of the village."

FATAL RAILROAD COLLISION.

On Tuesday of last week, a fearful collision took place on the Camden and Amboy Railroad. The Boston Journal gives the following account of it:

The accident was a regular head and head collision, on a single track, between the train which left Philadelphia at 2 o'clock, and the train which left New York at 4 o'clock. Both trains were large, and so violent was the concussion that the first car upon each train was driven into the second car, and completely derailed. Five passengers were killed, and some twenty or thirty were either mortally wounded or crippled for life.

That the destruction of life was no greater, is a wonder. Both trains, it is stated, were running out of time, and endeavoring to reach a side track to turn out. The catastrophe might have been prevented, undoubtedly, if there was a telegraph on the road.

Among those injured, were Rev. Jas. Purcell, of Natchez, with his wife and child. All the employees upon both trains escaped unhurt. The blame of the collision is thrown upon the New York train, which was going at a high rate of speed, while the Philadelphia train was going quite slow.

The dead number five, as far as known at last accounts, viz: A child of D. H. Dustin, of New York, in his nurse; an Irishwoman, unknown, and two Germans.

The passengers, upwards of 200 in number, held an indignation meeting, and passed resolutions condemning in strong terms the reckless carelessness of the persons employed by the company, and the use of a telegraph, so important upon a single track road might have prevented the collision; and that the existence of a single track Railroad between the cities of New York and Philadelphia is disgraceful to the Company that enjoys a lucrative monopoly, and to the communities that tolerate it.

THE STEAMER OCEAN. This steamer, having been got off the rocks, and thoroughly refitted, is now once more on the route between Hallowell and Boston. The following, which we cut from the Boston Journal, will be interesting to all travellers by this route:

"The steamer Ocean, Capt. Sanford, has resumed her trips between this port and the Kennebec, in an excellent order, and is more admired by passengers than ever. The repairs and alterations made in her since she was ashore on the Londoner, have added to her strength, and greatly improved her accommodations. Originally she was built in the best style, which was not by the time she remained ashore, and the little damage she sustained, when most other vessels of her class would probably have broken up; but she did not alter her sheer a hair's breadth, and was repaired on the Sectional Dock at East Boston, by Messrs. Holmes & Snelting, well known among the best shipwrights of our port, under the immediate superintendence of the government inspectors. Her cabin floor was taken up, fore and aft, and in addition to four large keelsons, each 17 by 14 inches, which extended her whole length, four new ones of the same dimensions were added, and the whole were square bolted through all. She also had nearly a whole new set of white oak, a masted rider over her midship keelsons, and all her timbers, keel, keelsons and rider, were re-fastened with copper and iron, in the most substantial style. She had also a new stem and sternpost, new white oak deck boards, and new iron plating, all of which were required, was thoroughly caulked, copper fastened and coppered, and is now, in point of strength and sea-worthiness, one of the best vessels of her class afloat. Her cabins, too, have been most elegantly refitted, and are unsurpassed for convenience and comfort. She is now, in the fullest sense of the phrase, 'a first rate vessel,' liberally fitted in every thing, and most ably commanded."

GAS AND SHADE TREES AGAIN. As we are about having the gas pipes laid in our streets, we would once more call the attention of the Gas Company, and the citizens generally, to the damage caused by the leakage of the gas, to shade trees, and vegetation generally. Gas is a very convenient thing, no doubt, but we should not wish to lose the beautiful shade trees on State and other streets. A little care now, may save much trouble hereafter.

THE NATIONAL HERD SHOW. In relation to this project, which we noticed in our last, the Springfield Republican says, that at a meeting of the Committee on Tuesday evening, it was determined to raise \$5000 in shares of \$20 each, thus making it a stock concern, and giving it a basis, that will allow the Committee to make it an affair that shall be honorable to the ambitious man it has assumed.

VALUATION OF BOSTON. From the Boston Journal we cut the following statement of the valuation of the city of Boston:

We learn that the valuation of real estate in the city of Boston for the present year, as ascertained by the Assessors, is \$115,231,000; Personal estate, \$50,661,400; total valuation \$205,892,400; number of Polls 30,000; and that the ratio of taxation adopted for the present year is 76 cents on the one hundred dollars.

WHICH COUNTY NOMINATIONS. A Whip County and Senatorial Convention was held in this city, on Tuesday of last week, and the following nominations were made:

For Senators—Joseph Eaton, Stephen Stark, and Isaac N. Tucker—the old board.

For County Treasurer—Daniel Pike.

For Clerk of Courts—Wm. M. Stratton.

For County Commissioner—Moses B. Bliss.

To CORRESPONDENTS. Several communications were received this week, too late for this paper. They will be attended to, in our next.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

PETERSON'S MAGAZINE. The September number of this work is early on hand. It is well filled with interesting matter. This is an American work, and worthy of patronage. Terms \$2 per annum.

DAILY MIRROR. A neat little sheet with this title has just started in Bath. It appears to be well conducted, and we hope it will prosper. A daily paper is a great convenience to any community, in this age of reading, and as the publishers only ask for four hundred subscribers to ensure its continuance, we think they should have them, and the most of them at home. The terms are \$3.00 per year.

GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK. The September number of this Magazine is received. The "Schoolmaster in Love," is the title of a full page engraving, accompanied by a story. The contents are good, and we shall give a specimen of them in our next. The Lady's Book is an old established favorite of the ladies, and its publisher evidently spares no pains to make his book acceptable to them.

LATEST PATENTS. We notice the following among the list of Patents, issued from the United States Patent Office, for the week ending the 9th inst.:

For improvement in Life Boats, Daniel Dodge, of New York, N. Y., and Phineas Burgess, of East Boston, Mass. For improvement in Fire Arms, Joshua Stevens of Chicago, Mass., assignor to the "Massachusetts Arms Company" of the same place.

THE YELLOW FEVER. This dreadful epidemic appears to be increasing in New Orleans. A telegraphic dispatch from that city, dated 13th, says that the deaths on the day before, from yellow fever alone, amounted to two hundred. By an article in our "News Fragments," it will be seen that Homoeopathy has been successfully used in the treatment of the fever.

SINGULAR. On the 4th inst., says the Warren Journal, a little time before dark, a storm of insects was blown from the Delaware, up the Pequod. The storm continued two hours, resembling a drifting snow squall. The flies were of a whitish color, and about three-quarters of an inch in length.

WATERVILLE COMMENCEMENT.

The Commencement Exercises at Waterville College, on Wednesday of last week, were peculiarly interesting, and reflected much honor upon the institution.

The day was a pleasant one, and at an early hour the Church, where the exercises were to take place, was densely crowded. The parts of the Graduating Class were of a high order, in variety, and evinced much native talent as well as high cultivation of mind. As might be supposed, some shone as "bright particular stars," among which should be classed, in our opinion, "Modern Idolatry," by Mr. Owen, of China; "The New Earth," a poem, by Mr. Pierce, of Friendsville, Pa.; and "Literary Character," by Mr. Thurston, of Searsport. In one word, we would say, and not in any flattering or exaggerated tones, that the Graduating exercises will compare favorably with those of any other similar institution in the country.

In the afternoon the Alumni were ably addressed by Hon. James Brooks of New York city. His theme being "Necessary training for public life."

In the evening, the Rev. Dr. Oncken of Germany, delivered an address before the "Boardman Missionary Society," which was listened to with much interest and attention.

We would say for Waterville College, its future prospects look bright and promising. The happiest ones, we consider, is the re-election of its former popular and excellent President, Prof. Patterson, of Newton Theological Seminary. Under him as its presiding officer, with the cooperation of the present able faculty, the course of Waterville College must be upward and onward, and will doubtless receive the generous patronage it so richly deserves, of all interested in the advancement of sound morals and learning.

THE MAINE FARMER.

GRASSHOPPER.—I have seen late, records of "tall" grass and grain, which are indeed tall specimens in their way, but away back here among the mountains, I think these tall specimens can be beat. I have a scion which was set in May of last year, on a stock two inches in diameter. There were four eyes on the scion, which commenced growing in June, and are now five and one-half feet long each. There are, on these four branches, forty limbs, averaging two feet each, and there are also six sprouts, from one to six inches in length. Two of these main branches are one inch in diameter, the other two three-quarters inch each. The scion above one of the branches, is one and one-half inches in diameter. The whole length of growth of this one scion, in fourteen months, is more than one hundred feet! If any body in this State can boast a larger growth of scion, in same length of time, do, Mr. Editor, give them an invitation to let us know it. The above scion, is of the variety of apple called York Vero, which, obtained, with quite a variety of other kinds in Western New York. It is stated that Wm. R. Lincoln, Esq., late Superintendent of the Western Reform School, accepts the superintendency of a similar school about to be established in Maine.

Yours, JESSE H. SOULE.

Avon, August 6, 1883.

ARREST OF A POSTMASTER FOR ROBBERY THE MAIL. For some years past depredations have been committed upon the U. S. mail on the Wheeling mail route. B. B. Chapman, Esq., the special mail agent of the Post Office Department, discovered that the robberies were somewhere in the vicinity of Alliance. By enclosing a \$10 bill (marked privately) in a letter, Mr. Chapman most effectually caught the bird. Mr. John Foults, Postmaster at Moltre station, on the C. & P. R. R., nine miles below Alliance, in a day or two passed that identical bill on a railroad conductor. Mr. Chapman, accompanied by U. S. Marshal Fitch, proceeded to Moltre station, where they learned that Mr. Foults was residing at New Lebanon, Columbia Co., as a grand juror. They proceeded to that place, and made the arrest, and placing the prisoner in a buggy, returned to Alliance. The prisoner is a man of property, and has served as Postmaster a number of years. He was terribly affected when arrested. (Cleveland Plaindealer.)

CROPS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE. A hasty trip through the fine farming region at the head of the lake, last week, gave us an opportunity to note the appearance of the crops, and to find that section. Hay has generally been secured in good order, but the crop is short, having been injured by the drought. The yield will not be greater than last year. Indian corn looks finely, and the prospects of an abundant crop were never better.

Potatoes are looking promising, and if they escape the rot, the yield will be large. The apples are almost entirely cut off, by the same worm probably of whose ravages we have had complaints every where. An intelligent farmer, however, with whom we conversed, was of the opinion that the heavy rain storm of the last week in May destroyed the fruit.

(POTTER (N. H.) INQUIRER.)

GATHERED NEWS FRAGMENTS, &c.

A Fair in Kentucky. The "First Annual Fair of the South-Western Agricultural and Mechanical Association" will be held at Louisville, Ky., the coming autumn, commencing on the 11th of October. Premiums are offered for the best display of the various kinds of cloth fabrics, furniture, stock, farm produce and implements, &c., of from \$5 to \$50.

Hogs. From present appearances, says the Louisville Courier, the number of hogs the next season will be large, particularly in Kentucky and Ohio. We hear of a contract for a large number of hogs in Indiana, at \$2.90 gross, to be delivered at the pens in the fall. A trader offered yesterday to deliver 1,000 hogs, between the 20th of November and the 20th of December, to one of our packers at 44 cents net. The contract was not made.

Marriage Laws in South Carolina. A marriage solemnized in South Carolina is indissoluble, either by the consent of the parties, or by the judgment of any foreign tribunal or statute of any foreign legislature. No judicial tribunal in South Carolina has any authority to declare a divorce, and no divorce has ever been granted by the Legislature of South Carolina. Bad State for unhappy couples to reside in.

Death of Col. Bliss, of the Army. The Savannah papers contain a despatch from New Orleans, announcing that Col. Bliss, who served so gallantly in the Mexican war, and who was also known as the son-in-law of the late President Taylor, died of yellow fever, on the 15th instant, at Pascagoula.

An Ancient Pear Tree. A pear tree which was planted by Governor Stuyvesant, two hundred and six years ago, on the spot which has since become the corner of Thirteenth street and Third avenue, New York, is still flourishing and fruitful. The pearls are said to be especially delicious.

Bank Notes Stolen. The paper of all the Ohio State Bank is refused by the Banks in Cincinnati, in consequence of the genuine notes of a number of the banks having been stolen from the Auditor's office. Some mystery is connected with the affair which renders it possible that notes of all the banks may have been stolen. All the bills detected were signed by the State Register, but the names of the President and Cashier were forged.

Shocking Occurrence. A son of Mr. Ryan, aged fifteen years, at Elizabethtown, Ky., was shockingly mangled on the 20th ult., by four bloodhounds which were kept for hunting fugitive slaves. The boy's left arm was nearly gnawed to pieces, and the flesh was torn from his right leg in several places, so as to expose the bone.

Beard Island Light House. The contract for building Bear Island Light House, near Mount Desert, to replace that destroyed by fire last winter, has been awarded by the United States Light House Board, to Mr. Elisha Nye, of Bangor, and John G. Bowen, also of Bangor, has been appointed agent to superintend the work, and also keeper of the light after the same is completed.

Fatal Accident. Mr. James Emerson, of Orono, Me., on the Essex street settlements, was instantly killed on Monday last, by falling of a tree.

Grasshoppers. Near Rome, N. Y., the whole country is alive with grasshoppers, and many of the crops have suffered severely. Crops which are now green and palatable to them, are devoured almost beyond measure. Oats have suffered severely, and many fields have been cut quite too green to save them from destruction.

What he Loses by Tasters. A grocer at the South end makes it out, by a close calculation, that he loses by tasters 157 pounds of cheese in a year, 150 pounds of butter, 2 bushels of peanuts, 44 barrels of apples, 10 quarts of cherries, 75 gallons of molasses, 2 boxes of sugar, and gingerbread enough to shingle a camp meeting.

Value of Farming Lands in the United States. The average value of improved and unimproved land in farms in the United States, is \$10.79 per acre. In the District of Columbia it is the highest, being appraised at \$68.03 per acre. New Jersey stands second in the list, being valued at \$43.07 per acre. Massachusetts stands third in the column. The census tables report that she has 2,133,430 acres of improved land, and 1,282,575 acres of unimproved land in farms, making a total of 3,416,005 acres valued at \$109,076,347, an average of \$32.50 per acre. Notwithstanding the value of her commerce and manufactures, she is the eighth State in the Union in the value of her lands.

An Extensive Work. The new harbor at Holyhead, Eng., is now affording shelter to large numbers of vessels which run in for protection. When completed, it will form the largest harbor of refuge in the kingdom. An area of 316 acres is being enclosed by a break-water, three-fourths of a mile in length, with a sea-pier 2,000 feet in length.

Navies in the World. Great Britain has 636 vessels of war afloat, or in process of building, carrying 17,681 guns. France has 346, carrying 8,925 guns. Russia has 179 afloat, carrying 5,896 guns. Holland has 134, carrying 1,846 guns. Turkey has 66, carrying 2,660 guns. The United States has 77, carrying 2,345 guns.

Blackwell's Island. It is stated that the escape of convicts from Blackwell's Island, near New York, averages one a day, and that most of the escapes are made in the day-time.

Superintendent of the Reform School. It is stated that Wm. R. Lincoln, Esq., late Superintendent of the Western Reform School, accepts the superintendency of a similar school about to be established in Maine.

Accident. On Saturday evening a seaman named Thomas Fries, belonging to the schooner "Morning Star," of Kittery, Me., fell and broke one of his legs. He was conveyed to the Massachusetts General Hospital.

Result of thoughtlessness. In Northampton, on Friday, whilst the officers were in the act of destroying about 250 gallons of liquor, it was set on fire by some thoughtless boys, and four of the bystanders were badly burned, one of whom, named Cummings, was so severely injured that his recovery is doubtful.

Working Hard. A correspondent informs the "Boston Journal," that there is a hen, having "a local habitation," a few rods from Harvard University, which has brought up fourteen chickens and laid twenty-four eggs in two months and six days, laying an egg a day for twenty-four days ending Aug. 1. She is now setting on fifteen eggs. This is commendable diligence, considering the warm weather.

Yellow Fever and Homoeopathy in New Orleans. The French editor of the Orleansian says, he has seen several cases of yellow fever in which the curative powers of homoeopathy were eminently displayed, and the results of the treatment are of a nature to demand the early attention of the Board of Health. The homoeopathic physicians ask of the Board to afford them some beds and attendants, to put in a house which is gratuitously offered for the reception of the indigent sick.

The Great California Tree. The proprietors of the mammoth tree, California, have been offered \$30,000 for it. The Columbia Gazette says that fifty feet of the bark and one block to be taken off are valued at \$10,000.

ANOTHER TERRIBLE RAILROAD COLLISION.

On Friday last a most terrible collision occurred on the Providence and Worcester Railroad the particulars of which we condense from the Boston Journal, as follows:—

The trains which came in collision were the regular 7:20 train from Providence for Worcester, and the first train from Uxbridge. The first train was composed of one first class and one second class car, and had on board some 40 or 50 passengers. The other—the down train—was composed of six or seven first class passenger cars containing besides the usual number of passengers, a large excursion party, principally operatives from Whitinsville, who were going to Providence to take the steamer for Newport, to witness the regatta which was to take place there. The passengers in this train numbered some four or five hundred persons.

The place where the collision occurred was about half way between the Pawtucket and the Valley Falls stations—about five miles from Providence—upon an embankment from twenty to thirty feet high, and just beyond a sharp curve in the track, which hid the approaching trains from each other's view. The train from Providence was moving cautiously at a slow rate of speed, and the other at a very rapid rate. The result of the collision was heart-rending. The trains were literally piled upon top of each other—the engine, the cars, and all the interior finish being scattered in minute fragments in all directions, covering the embankments and the track, and protruding from the wreck, horribly mangled, were the bodies of the dead, dying, and wounded, the latter filling the air with their cries and groans and creating a scene most horrid to behold. The engine of the down train was pressed up on to the top of the engine of the other train—the front part being elevated some eight or ten feet. It remained in that position at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon when we left. It was resting on some heavy posts, the other engine having been removed from beneath it. Its machinery and running gear were entirely carried away. The other engine was badly injured.

The first car of the down train was driven on to the tender of the engine, completely crushing it and tearing the floor and seats into splinters. There were but twelve or fifteen passengers in this car, three or four of whom were killed. The second car was comparatively slightly injured, the ends being stove, and the seats and floor being broken up. The third car shot full length its length over the second car, and the fourth car, which was the last of the train, was completely wrecked, and the passengers were scattered about the ruins, the blood streaming from their wounds and covering the sides of the cars. The second and third cars were removed to the Valley Falls Station in the position described above, and remained so when we left.

The cars in the rear of the third were but slightly injured. It seems almost miraculous that some portion of the train was not thrown down the embankment, in which case the list of killed and wounded would have been dreadfully augmented.

Eye witnesses to the catastrophe describe the scene as horrid beyond description. Those who escaped, immediately set themselves to work to remove from the ruins the dead and wounded. Several of the former were so mangled as to render recognition impossible, and their names were ascertained by memoranda found upon their persons. Some of the wounded were moved about on the crowd, one with his arm cut off, another with his arm torn out at the shoulder—others with horrid cuts on the head, and various parts of the body, and uttering cries and moans piteous to hear. As fast as the dead and wounded were rescued from the wreck, they were removed, a portion to Pawtucket and the rest to Valley Falls. The former were placed in the freight house upon straw, and subsequently removed to the hotel, where every possible medical aid was rendered to the survivors. Those taken to Valley Falls were all dead. Their bodies were placed in the Town Hall. They were taken in charge by a coroner, and after being washed and dressed were placed in neat mahogany coffins, to be delivered to their friends.

As to the cause of this sad catastrophe, all accounts agree in attributing it to the conductor of the down train attempting to run his train—out of time—from Valley Falls to the turn-out at Pawtucket, when he was struck by the up train, which had the track, waited a moment or two beyond its time when it reached the junction, and to give ample time for the down train, to then proceed.

The total number of the killed, including those who have since died, is fifteen, among whom were Rev. Mr. Penney, officiating clergyman at Grace Church, Providence.

A large number were wounded, some very seriously, and one, Mr. Goldthwait, of Uxbridge, had his arm taken off close to his body, but it is thought he may recover.

Among the killed was the fireman of the Uxbridge train. He leaves a wife and two children at Uxbridge.

Most of the killed and wounded belonged to Uxbridge and Whitinsville. The killed were mostly operatives in the mills in Whitinsville.

The Lost Barque ARGYLE. Captain Young and the thirty known survivors, ten in number, of the ill-fated barque ARGYLE, which foundered on her passage from Bristol to Quebec, arrived at Quebec on the 5th inst. Capt. Young states that their sufferings have been dreadful. They were nine days in one of the ship's boats, drifting about on the ocean, and six of those days were passed without food or water—during which time seven of the men died of exhaustion and hunger. Of the survivors, two are sailors—one of whom is an old lady, turned 60, and the crew of the barque W. N. Brown, of Addison, Me., from Boston for New Orleans, which vessel foundered in a gale on the 3th, in lat. 33.20, lon. 69.10. Captain Dyer reports that when he left his vessel, she had ten feet of water in her hold; her fore and main masts had been cut away to ease her on account of the heavy weather.

ARRIVAL OF THE WRECKED SEAMEN. New York, Aug. 14. The brig Ocean Bird, Atkinson, from Curacao, July 29, which arrived here to-day, brings as passengers Capt. Dyer, two mates, and the crew of the barque W. N. Brown, of Addison, Me., from Boston for New Orleans, which vessel foundered in a gale on the 3th, in lat. 33.20, lon. 69.10. Captain Dyer reports that when he left his vessel, she had ten feet of water in her hold; her fore and main masts had been cut away to ease her on account of the heavy weather.

A TRAGEDY IN OLDENOW, ME. On Wednesday evening of last week, an ignorant Frenchman, named Peter Golong, shot a man named Moses Judkins, with a gun loaded with buckshot. His wounds are thought to be mortal, and yet the feeling of the townspeople was so much in favor of Golong that he was permitted to escape, and a subscription was even taken up to help him off. When Judkins was taken home, his wife, who was unwell, was thrown into convulsions and died immediately.

PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL.

SATURDAY, Aug. 6.—The Committee on Burying Grounds reported adversely to the purchase of a piece of land for a Burying Ground on the north of the present Burnt Hill Ground, and recommended that the city buy twelve acres belonging to Mr. V. D. Pinkham on the west of said ground, which can be had for \$1200. The report was accepted, and an order passed authorizing the Mayor to purchase, and the Treasurer to borrow money therefor, on ten years time.

Orders passed.—Directing the Street Commissioner for the East side, to open, at his earliest convenience, the new street laid out from Bangor street to the Kennebec river, by Ezekiel Ware.

Authorizing the City Treasurer to borrow \$273, to pay an execution vs. L. Cushing's estate, for the recovery of money (with interest and cost) belonging to heirs of the late John Arnold, paid by the said Cushing into the town treasury.

Reports accepted.—Of Committee on New Streets, laying out a street on petition of Mahala C. Gitchell.

THE LATEST NEWS FROM EUROPE.

The steamship Africa arrived at New York on Thursday last.

ARRIVAL OF THE AFRICA.

England. No news of importance has reached us from England, except that of a strike among the London cabmen.

The strike originated in the passage of a new act, reducing cab fares in London to sixpence a mile. The proprietors of hacks and cabs in consequence withdrew their vehicles from the street. The inconvenience which resulted may be imagined.

"The thousands who were engaged to be off by the early trains, waited and waited for the return of the messenger they had despatched for cabs, and only learned the fact too late, or just in time to save the train."

France. The distribution of medals to the successful artists of the Exhibition, took place on the 20th. Prince Napoleon presided, and made a speech in which he flattered the Emperor and the artists about equally.

Since the attempt to assassinate the Emperor at the Opera Comique, the Emperor, the Empress had gone to public theatre, but had arranged a series of representations at the private theatre of the Palaces, the first taking place at St. Cloud.

Italy. The Pope's health is reported to be precarious. He has been suffering for some time from an attack of asthma, and from general debility. He is 61 years of age, and his death would not doubt be the signal for important movements in Italy. A good deal of excitement prevailed among the people, and the Romagna, and assassinations were becoming frequent. Four murders were reported within five or six days; two at Faenza, one at Imola, and another at Castel-Bolognese. Alarming riots had occurred at Bologna, Forlì, Rimini and Ravenna. The ostensibly cause of these disturbances was the dourness of provisions, but it was strongly suspected that this was a pretext to cover political moves. The exports of grain had been prohibited from Ancona.

Tracy. The Sultana, which was the agreement dictated by France, England and Austria, would send an ambassador to St. Petersburg; beyond this nothing further has transpired.

The Porte's protest against the occupation of the principality is just at hand.

Another Hungarian, not named, escaped from Bayreuth and arrived at Smyrna, went on board Lloyd's Austrian steamer, where he was arrested by the captain as an Austrian subject, but escaped overboard and fled to the coast.

Congratulation, who forced the steamer captain to deliver up the refugee's wife and children.

The Costa affair at Smyrna was unchanged.

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Any decisive success on the part of the rebels in the North would apparently cause a rise, and lead to a convulsion of the Empire. An attempt to retake Amoy had failed.

MERRILL THE HONORABLE. The Portland Advertiser, of the 9th inst., says of this noble, lately caught in Boston.

"Mr. Bennett, Warden of the Thomaston State Prison, passed through our city last evening, with Merrill in his custody. He was betrayed by an anecdote, for the reward, was only \$50. The informer very coolly said that it was paid to him, that 'he thought it was more, or he wouldn't have done it.' It seems that he knew Merrill—knew that he had been offered for his capture, and had appointed to meet him at a house, when, as Merrill entered, he was seized by the police. He at once knew who had betrayed him, and when the informer afterwards reached through the grate to shake hands with him, he seized his hand with a tiger's grasp, and was only prevented from mutilating or breaking his arm by others who came to his rescue.

Merrill has been a desperate fellow. For a long time he consorted with the worst of the city, and was the center of a large circle of disreputable associates. He was a systematic business, stealing horses to Boston and Massachusetts, having regular stopping places, and travelling only by night. When the police were on the track, and broken up, he reversed his order of operations, and commenced importing horses from Massachusetts to Maine. He was in this way a few weeks since, and at the 'Cape Cottage' some of his associates met him, and he was betrayed by one who knew him, and who informed the Warden. The Warden telegraphed to the police of this city, but the bird had taken the alarm and down, and a horse and chaise also disappeared at the same time.

A TERRIBLE DEATH. The Indianapolis Journal gives the following particulars:

Mr. George Lingenfelter, shoemaker of this city, aged about sixty years, met his death on Wednesday evening in the following horrible manner: In the county jail there is a step-ladder leading from the room John Freeman occupied to the one below. The opening landing door was covered with a heavy two-ply wooden door, bolted and barred with iron, which weighed several hundred pounds. This door when it is raised and leaned against the wall is so delicate that it will break, and so great is its weight that two men are required to raise it.

Mr. L. lost his balance while near this stairway, and in falling caught hold of the upraised door, which fell, crushing his head and neck, and killing him instantly. His body had fallen through, thus leaving his whole weight suspended by his head and hand. John Freeman, who was the only person in the room, when he saw the accident rushed to the door, and with the almost superhuman strength which excitement gives, raised the door without help, and when he did so the body fell through and lodged on the lower floor, where it was caught. The unfortunate man, who did not breathe or struggle after he was raised.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT. We learn that on the 3d inst., at 11 o'clock, a young girl, daughter of Elder Douglas, of Edin, and the other 12 years old, daughter of Mr. Lyman, were out picking berries upon the eastern portion of Mt. Desert range of mountains, they both, while endeavoring to descend from a mountain, were precipitated down a precipitous, ragged rock, some 15 or 20 feet, and the daughter of Elder Douglas was instantly killed, being most shockingly mangled by the fall. The other, though somewhat injured, yet miraculously escaped the fate of her little companion. Late in the afternoon the cries of the survivor aroused some of the neighbors, and when found she had wandered far away from the place where the accident occurred, and could give no account of what had transpired after the fall, nor where it took place, as the last she remembered was that she reached down endeavoring to assist the other up over the edge of the rocks, when they went down together. Search was made late that night but without success, and the deceased was not found till the next day.

THE GREAT TREE OF CALIFORNIA.

The following description of the Great Cedar Tree, in California, to which allusion has been made in the California news, is given by a correspondent of the Sacramento Union:

"It is distant from this city about one hundred and twenty-five miles, and situated at the source of the Stanislaus and San Antonio Rivers, in the foot hills near the base of the Sierra Nevada, in Calaveras County. It stands on a towering ledge, (a nearly perpendicular as may be,) to the height of two hundred and eighty-seven feet; at the base, it measures ninety-five feet in circumference, and five feet above the ground, ninety feet, at which height the tree is being felled, in order to pull it."

The bark has been taken off to the height of fifty-five feet, in sections, each piece being numbered and packed for transportation to San Francisco; thence it will be shipped to New York, where it will be set up as a curiosity for exhibition. The bark varies in thickness from six to sixteen inches. Mr. Freeman has in his possession a piece of the bark fourteen inches thick; also foliage with two buds attached to the trunk, which he culled with his rifle from the topmost bough of the tree.

The lower limb of any material size, is one hundred and fifty feet above the ground, and measures four feet and a half in diameter. In the immediate vicinity are many very large trees, measuring from thirty to seventy-five feet in diameter, and around the scenery is grand and picturesque in the extreme.

The following incident, related to us by Mr. F., will give our readers some faint idea of the importance of the tree to the people of the metropolis. A recent discovery of guano is exciting attention among importers and farmers. The guano is said to be on an island, 20 miles long by 7 broad, and lying between the mountains of California and Calcutta. Some ships have been sent to bring cargoes home.

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SOLAR ECLIPSE IN 1854.

On Friday, the 20th of May next, there will be an eclipse of the sun, which will be more or less visible in all parts of the United States and Canada, and in a proportion of both will be total. Its commencement in the city of Washington will be at 4h. 20m. in the afternoon, its greatest obscuration at 5h. 18m. and its end at 6h. 07m. As the apparent diameter of the moon will be little less than the sun, the eclipse cannot be total anywhere. The Christian Almanac says:

"The ring will be only about one-third of a digit wide, and will be visible only in the vicinity where the line of contact passes. The eclipse is central in longitude 73 west of Greenwich, latitude 44 north; and in longitude 94 35 west, latitude 41 10 north. By finding these positions upon a map, and drawing a line from one to the other, the towns and countries through which the central eclipse passes will be readily discovered. The path of the annular eclipse will be about one hundred miles wide, and extend about fifty miles each side of the line we have described. The annular eclipse will move about one hundred miles per minute.

The first time this eclipse ever occurred was in 1312, July 21; since then it has returned thirty-one times, including its return next year. It occurred in April, 1804, in May 1818, in May, 1839. It will return again in June, 1872. Its last return will be in the year 2530, August 17th. The next solar eclipse that will attract much attention in this country will be in 1853, March 15th.

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AUGUSTA PRICES CURRENT.

Commodity	Price
Flour	\$6 00 07
Wheat	\$1 12 13
Barley	\$1 12 13
Oats	\$1 12 13
Rye	\$1 12 13
Indian	\$1 12 13
Corn	\$1 12 13
Beans	\$1 12 13
Lentils	\$1 12 13
Peas	\$1 12 13
Wheat	\$1 12 13
Barley	\$1 12 13
Oats	\$1 12 13
Rye	\$1 12 13
Indian	\$1 12 13
Corn	\$1 12 13
Beans	\$1 12 13
Lentils	\$1 12 13
Peas	\$1 12 13

BRIGHTON MARKET, August 11.

At Market, 1000 Head Cattle, 5000 Sheep, and 800 Swine. Prices as follows: Cattle, \$10 00 10 50; Sheep, \$5 00 5 50; Swine, \$3 00 3 50.

BOSTON MARKET, August 12.

At Market, 1000 Head Cattle, 5000 Sheep, and 800 Swine. Prices as follows: Cattle, \$10 00 10 50; Sheep, \$5 00 5 50; Swine, \$3 00 3 50.

WATERVILLE LIBERAL INSTITUTE.

The Fall Term of this Institution will commence on Monday, August 20th. The course of instruction is in the English, Latin, Greek, and French languages, and in the sciences.

CLINTON ACADEMY.

The Fall Term of this Institution will commence on Monday, August 20th. The course of instruction is in the English, Latin, Greek, and French languages, and in the sciences.

THOMASTON ACADEMY.

The Fall Term of this Institution will commence on Monday, August 20th. The course of instruction is in the English, Latin, Greek, and French languages, and in the sciences.

LITCHFIELD LIBERAL INSTITUTE.

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